

## Daily Eagle

## IN LONDON TOWN.

## "RUHAMAH" TAKES A PEEP AT THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

London Dwellings and Their Dinky, Stuffy Interiors—Looking Through a Gilded Lattice at English Statesmen—Duchesses in the Park—Royalty.

Liverpool never holds the passenger long, and it was just as grimy and noisy as it was eight years ago, when I ate a last maternal muffin and marmalade and sailed away to the westward and home. One finds changes in London, however, in that same time, and the changes are not in all cases agreeable. One's old landmarks, and in them comfortable quarters is now the greatest difficulty. Every American here has a building plan of London houses, and in a search for rooms for expected friends at that crowded season I have seen more dingy, stuffy, shabby interiors than I could have believed were hidden behind the walls of city streets.

All America seems to have rushed to Europe this year, and from every place on the continent comes the same word that the United States have never been so largely represented before. At Gillig's American exchange on the Strand there is a mass meeting of compatriots every day and all day long, and they stand in line before the little postoffice on the great main floor. The changes of this exchange makes one wonder how the Americans got along without it before. Mr. Gillig set up the flags and eagle and bade his countrymen welcome. The exchange is the general center and meeting place of Americans, and comprises everything within its walls. There is a bank on one floor, a postoffice on another; there are reading rooms where you find the latest papers on file, a ladies' parlor, a tourists' bureau, where you can buy excursion tickets to the end of the earth, and accompanying guidebooks, and a department of ocean service, where you arrange with every transatlantic line.

## THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

I had a look at the house of commons on Thursday, the day before it was prorogued. The brilliant young Irish member, Thomas O'Connor, and one of his shamrock supporters were the ones to guarantee that the group of Mr. Gillig's friends had no dynamite about them and to effect our entrance. The explosion in Westminster hall no one is allowed to enter that wing of the house of parliament unless accompanied by a member, and the dynamiters succeeded only in forcing some fine old stained glass windows, depriving sightseers of a great pleasure, and giving the few who do gain entrance uncomfortable sensations during all of the time that they are present. Accustomed to the level corridors, the open galleries and the free swing of our own Capitol and houses of congress, the precautions and passes and countersigns and checks needed to carry us through seemed almost farcical.

We were seated on in a Quaker meeting, the men of the party being marched off and shown into one gallery, and the ladies led up an endless lot of back stairs and into a box about twelve feet square, whence we peered through a gilded lattice at the mighty house of commons far below. The members sit on leather-covered benches around what would hardly make an ordinary county court room at home. Half of them had their hats set squarely down on their heads and over their ears, in a good conservative style, and the speaker, whom we could not see from our screened gallery, was described as something magnificent in a big way. The speaker of the house of commons cannot leave his seat, they say, during sessions, and has to sit there from beginning to end. How would our busy, restless speakers of the house of representatives at Washington stand that, with no chance to slip down to the restaurant, or out to a committee room, or away during sessions!

## DUCHESS IN THE PARK.

As to the duchesses in the park, we saw them all the other morning when there was a meet of the Coaching club, and twenty four-in-hands went round and round the drives. All the world was out, and it was such a bright, sunny June morning as only blossoms the height of the London season. About all the visiting Americans were to be met in the park, and their comments on British beauty and the average English woman's taste in dress would not have edified the icy ones in the endless string of open carriages. The beauties could not have been out that day, nor any one's best gowns. Not one woman that rode by could compare, in face or toilet, with a certain Baltimore girl that stood by the rail and watched the spectacle. The Princess of Wales and her daughters were there, and the carriage full of royal highnesses bowed graciously this way and that in recognition of the uncovered heads around them.

The princess, as well as her daughters, were simply dressed in black gowns, for all the court is in mourning, for the mad and brother of Bavaria, and dress is regulated by edict, and the largest dry goods stores make the most pretentious displays of black and white, gray and purple goods. It starts the American greatly to see the princess looking quite as young as her three great grown daughters, and Alexandra is far more attractive to my eye than those three fair, fresh-complexioned, heavy-looking young girls with her. The three young daughters are strangely like the youthful portraits of Queen Victoria, and the dull, bland, heavy looking eyes that distinguish the royal grandmother make the family resemblance unmistakable.—"Ruhmah" in Globe-Democrat.

## The Morphine Habit in France.

The deplorable habit of using morphine, not to relieve pain, but for the pleasurable sensations the narcotic produces, seems to be spreading in France, in spite of the warning note uttered by medical men, and the terrible consequences that must follow upon the use, or rather abuse, of the drug. During the hearing of a case at Maceo recently, the facts that transpired corroborated the assertion made by doctors as to the alarming tendency which prevails. A chemist residing in that town was prosecuted for selling morphine without medical authority to a number of persons, among them being the wife of a doctor, who, quite unknown to her husband, consumed it daily, and in large quantities, by injecting it under the skin. In the course of the trial several physicians came forward to attest that the pernicious habit of morphine injections was spreading greatly—especially among women, to the destruction of their moral and physical health. One of those witnesses—attached to a large hospital at Maceo—affirmed that more than a dozen of the day nurses were regularly addicted to the use of morphine, in one shape or another, and that by them had become a second nature. It is, however, in Paris—and especially in the fashionable world of Paris—that, if all we hear be true, morphine causes the most serious havoc to mind and body.—London Telegraph.

## Hexes of the Northern Pacific.

As one point on the Canadian branch of the Northern Pacific the railroad describes a hexagon, which is two and a quarter miles around, and only 1,200 feet across the hill at the open end of it.

A woman, in a letter from Saratoga, tells us that without Judge Dillon society there "would indeed be a witch in the land." The writer adds: "His park is the finest in the country, his horses and equipages are unsurpassed, his hotels are unequalled, and his latest means that the Saratoga season has opened."—Exchange.

## MAGAZINE RIFLES.

## MOVEMENT IN FAVOR OF THEIR USE AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS.

France's Response to Germany's Recent Action—Experiments Made in the United States—What European Nations are Doing—The Austro-Prussian War.

The cable dispatch that the French government has ordered 60,000 repeating rifles to be distributed among its troops by the end of this month has an interest for this country as well as for all European nations. It was scarcely said not long ago that after the end of the next great war every government would want magazine guns; but it now looks as if very few governments will be willing to wait for the next war. The present act of France is spoken of as a reply to Germany's recent arming of her Alsace-Lorraine regions with repeating arms; but both countries have long been experimenting for this purpose, and indeed it is obvious that if France had not already begun to provide herself with such weapons, an order to distribute 60,000 of them in so short a time would be preposterous. As a fact, the army at St. Etienne altered its tool plant some time ago, with a view to making magazine rifles on a large scale. There have been many efforts to change the Gras into a magazine arm, the Robin system of conversion being one, while among other plans expertly executed have been the Faries and Sturis, which utilizes to some extent parts of the Gras action.

IN THE UNITED STATES. Magazine arms in the United States have not thus far achieved complete success in the tests to which they have been submitted by the government, although their ultimate superiority can hardly be doubted. Not long ago, issues of two leading magazine rifles were made to a certain number of organizations throughout the army, in many regiments and departments, and trials of them were made in competition with the Springfield single loader. The commanding officer of each detachment making these trials drew up a report of the results, with his comments thereon. It was found that in a large majority of the reports the existing single breech loader was preferred. Nevertheless, the principal faults noted in the magazine arms were such as can be remedied by mechanical improvements or by a careful training of the men in their use. The brief report of Gen. Benet on the trials, rendered a few months ago, declared that he believed that a magazine gun would eventually be adopted, but that the time had not yet come for it.

Meanwhile in Europe the movement in favor of the new system has been going on and has already practically been pushed to success. We find the troops of Sweden armed with the Jarman, a magazine rifle of unusually long range. Austria is preparing to substitute for her somewhat inferior Werndl rifle the Mannlicher, which has a removable magazine, and avoids the faults of weakness, complexity, and costliness sometimes found in such weapons. Russia has been kept back by the great cost of converting into repeaters the multitude of the arms with which her arsenals are loaded. Switzerland is arming her militia with the Vetterli repeaters, as the little state needs to make the most of her forces.

GERMANY AND FRANCE. Germany has converted Mauser single loaders into a magazine arm on a system which attracts the criticism of the experts upon several grounds, and no doubt justly, but which, after all, has the great advantage of being cheap, of using the rifles already in the hands of the troops, and of being manipulated in a manner already familiar to them, so that there is little or nothing to learn. France has armed her navy for some years with the Kropatchek repeaters, but has been looking for a modification of the Gras for her land troops. Possibly it is the Kropatchek that is to be issued in such large numbers to 60,000 troops of the line; but it is reasonable to suppose that some one of the many proposed modifications of the Gras has been chosen, and the required changes made. England several months ago ordered the issue of magazine guns for experiment, and now will be spurred on by the decision of Germany.

In short, the lesson of the Austro-Prussian war of 1866 is not forgotten. Then the needle gun, in the hands of disciplined troops, carried all before it. Now all nations have abandoned muzzle loading small arms for breech loaders, and the next step is repeating or magazine arms. No doubt we shall see a general rush to follow the lead of Germany, although the previous action of Sweden and Switzerland had been little heeded, since no nation will be willing to become a victim to a more efficient weapon in the hands of its enemy.—New York Sun.

Dennis Kearney, the Sand Lot Agitator, Dennis Kearney, now 41 years old, and is described as short, heavy-set, rugged-looking person, with fair complexion, light hair, very low forehead, eyes set far back in their sockets, altogether presenting an extremely Hibernian appearance. He is ten years older than when he suddenly developed from an industrious drayman into a fiery socialist agitator. He resides on Santa Clara street, in this city, in a home worth some \$5,000 or \$6,000. His present occupation is keeping an employment office, to which he adds some attention to real estate matters, and the selling of ship and railroad tickets. It is claimed that he neither drinks nor smokes, and "has not a lazy hair in his head." Before he took to draying he followed the sea, performing his first labors in the way of an independent self-support in Neptune's service. Of course, Mr. Kearney is both blessed and cursed in this community. At one time he certainly wielded no little power.—San Francisco Cor. Cleveland Leader.

## A Peculiar "Beauty Contest."

We have not heard of a more peculiar contest than that between two young women who work in one of the cotton mills in Lewiston. It was a competition for the palm of superior beauty. Both of the young women are red cheeked and blushing. One of them is married. Each of them is old enough to be satisfied with the verdict of her husband or sweetheart. The vexed question arose in the forenoon, the settlement was left over until after dinner, when each had had sufficient time to "fix up." An extra ribbon or two and gay jewelry adorned each. The most winning, look-at-me smiles were displayed by each. The hands in the mill decided the question. The girls were placed side by side and every body, from the back boy to the overseers, looked at the girls critically, with the eye of an art connoisseur, and rendered his decision fearlessly. The damsels made it a most serious matter. With them it was no joke, as it was to the critics on beauty. Pretty eyes filled with tears more than once and cheeks flushed red with chagrin.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

## Antiline Oil as an Anesthetic.

Physicians are now using antiline oil as a local anesthetic when simple operations such as the opening of a felon are to be performed. The finger in such a case, is dipped for a short time in the oil, and although the flesh may subsequently be cut to the bone it is said there is absolutely no pain.—Chicago News.

## The Paris "Deadhead's" Latest Move.

The latest move of the Paris "deadhead" is to present himself to the manager of a theatre with a huge bundle of manuscripts under his arm. "Do you," he says, "want a five-act tragedy?" "No." "A three-act comedy?" "No." "A one-act farce?" "No." "I always write the lever de rideau myself." "Well, then," the deadhead says, "give me a couple of seats for to-night." And the manager, glad to get rid of him on such easy terms, generally gives him the pass.—Brooklyn News.

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